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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

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4 Dec. 1972The Romanians Continue Apace In Helsinki

The Romanians continue to press for assurance that all states participating in CSCE will do so as equals. On Friday Romanian delegate Mircea Balanescu proposed that any future Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe should adopt an explicit document requiring all countries to "renounce the use of force no matter the circumstances or the pretext." This attempt by Bucharest to gain a blanket renunciation of force agreement as part of CSCE is clearly aimed at undermining the so called "Brezhnev doctrine" of limited sovereignty, under which a socialist country can intervene in the affairs of another to "safeguard" international socialism. Balanescu also raised the point Romania pressed in earlier discussions on procedural matters, that all states must be equals in any future CSCE "no matter what their social system, size or membership in a military alliance."

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Sarajevo Party Muzzles Dissidents

The results of a plenum of the Bosnia-Hercegovina party last week indicate that there has been sniping at the party leadership since early September. Party discipline was meted out against two members of the LCY conference, the head of the republic assembly committee and an official in the federal veterans organization. Announcement of the punitive measures was accompanied by only sketchy descriptions of their errors--"arbitrary, subjectivist and unacceptable criticism"--and the whole affair has been quietly swept under the rug.

Two prominent LCY officials, Osman Karabegovic and Avdo Humo, and Hajro Kapetanovic head of the assembly's budget committee were apparently involved in criticism of party leader Branko Mikulic. The latter two offered self criticism and got off with a reprimand and warning. Karabegovic, however, reconsidered his decision to accept the central committee's stand and was booted out of the party. A veterans' organization leader, Cedo Kapor, was repirmanded for attacks on the manner in which the republic regime conducted itself during the emigre-terrorist raid in June of this year.

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The incredible thing about the whole affair is that it took three months and four separate plenums for word to leak out. In Slovenia, Serbia, Vojvodina and even Croatia where conservatives run a fairly tight ship reports of internal conflicts were headlined in the local press. Mikulic's absence from an important LCY presidium session in early October was the only hint that something was wrong in the republic party.

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Bulgaria Looks Toward Better Relations With Turkey and Greece

Consistent with Sofia's current emphasis on improving ties with its Balkan neighbors, Foreign Minister Mladenov's visit from 23 to 28 November in Turkey appears to have advanced bilateral relations a step further. The Turkish press described Mladenov's talks in Ankara as being conducted in a "cordial and constructive spirit." The communique produced at the end of the visit emphasizes the need for taking advantage of the opportunities existing for better cooperation in the Balkans. There was, of course, the standard rhetoric on the Middle East and references to stepping-up economic cooperation.

One of the most intriguing paragraphs in the communique describes bilateral relations as developing on the basis of "respecting independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, nonintervention in (each other's) internal affairs, equality and mutual respect." This phrase undoubtedly refers to problems which have arisen in the past from the presence of a large Turkish minority in Bulgaria. Nevertheless, such words are usually thought of as standard Romanian jargon and are a rarity in any document signed by the Bulgarians.

The only known tense moment in the visit came during Mladenov's press conference. At that time, he was asked about recent air hijackings of Turkish planes to Bulgaria. Mladenov cited the sentences handed out to one group of air pirates and said the most recent hijackers can expect the same when they go on trial soon. Mladenov then wondered why the individuals who hijacked a Soviet plane to Turkey over a year ago had not been tried.

While Mladenov was in Turkey, Bulgarian officials were hosting Greek Minister of Economy Efessios and Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Michalopoulos. The two men were in Sofia to participate in the first session of the Greek-Bulgarian inter-ministerial committee. The meeting appears to have been devoted to creating the machinery for future cooperation. Three permanent sub-committees were set up: a) for the promotion of trade relations, b) for industrial and technological cooperation, and c) for transportation. The

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sub-committees are scheduled to start work in early 1973 and the next inter-ministerial session was slated for September 1973 in Athens.

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Bulgaria Takes a Look At Its Environment

Officials guilty of violating Bulgaria's law on the prevention of air, water and soil pollution are being called to account. Preliminary investigations in and around Sofia and Pleven have turned up "grave shortcomings in study, planning, constructing and maintaining purification systems." Those officials responsible will be held accountable for any damage. The problem is not just limited to local plant and enterprise managers, but according to the party daily, reaches fairly high into the top echelons of the government. The ministries of Heavy Industry and Agriculture, have utilized only 49% and 61%, respectively, of the funds allocated for purification equipment--and questions are now being asked why.

This is the first indication that Sofia intends to seriously follow up and enforce its anti-pollution law. Just how strict they will be, however, only time will tell. In the meantime, plant and enterprise managers have been put on notice that their duties include not only fulfilling the planned goal, but also working toward a better environment.

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